

last December. The ladies created a bond of true camaraderie and won several intense games. They out hustled, outmaneuvered and outplayed their toughest competition. The only thing that outshined their play was their sportsmanship and respect for the game. They are a true inspiration to soccer players nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Jason Neidell, Wendi Whitman, and Mara Schanfield for their work in coaching the team to the Gold Medal. They provided leadership and guidance and an invaluable service to these ladies and the youth soccer movement. I would also like to honor Jamie Hacker, Allyson Gordon, and Genna Brand, who were selected as Captains of the team. May all of the ladies success in this program help them fully realize their potential for productive, successful lives, and I wish these girls all the best in their future endeavors.

The following are the members of the United States Junior Girls' Gold Medal winners at the 2005 Maccabi World Games:

Sarah Berger, Genna Brand, Allyson Gordon, Amanda Gurin, Jamie Hacker, Lizzie Hal-dane, Kasey Hirsty, Kayli Hirsty, Lindsay Jaffe, Carly Knue, Allison Kurtz, Samantha Kurtz, Rebecca Rostowsky, Zoe Sarnak, Alexandra Schwach, Dena Shleifer, Morani Stelmach, Rachael Sushner, Julie Kaufman, Sofia Vallone.

Head Coach—Jason Neidell, Assistant Coaches—Wendi Whitman and Mara Schanfield.

RECOGNIZING SPACE SHUTTLE
COMMANDER EILEEN COLLINS,
MISSION SPECIALIST WENDY
LAWRENCE, AND THE CONTRI-
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WHO HAVE WORKED WITH NASA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 450 which recognizes Space Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins, Mission Specialist Wendy Lawrence, and the contributions of all other women who have worked with NASA following the successful mission of Space Shuttle *Discovery* on STS-114. Let me offer my own personal congratulations to these women who have not only advanced the cause of aeronautics through their work, but also they have advanced the cause of women through their determination.

Let me take a moment to recognize Commander Eileen Collins who successfully returned NASA to flight. LTC Eileen Marie Collins was born in Elmira, New York on November 19, 1956. As a child, Eileen dreamed about space and of becoming a pilot. Her parents often took her to the airport to watch the planes take off and land. The Collins family wanted Eileen to attend college, but did not have the money to send her. After high school, she attended Corning Community College. While there, she studied hard to earn a two-year scholarship to Syracuse University. In 1978 Eileen Collins graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics and eco-

nomics from Syracuse University. Later, she went on to earn a master of science degree in operations research from Stanford University and a master of arts degree in space systems management from Webster University.

In 1979, LTC Collins graduated from Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base. In 1990, while attending the Air Force Test Pilot School, she was selected for the astronaut program. Eileen Collins became an astronaut in July 1991 and the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle on February 2, 1995. She made history once again in 1999. On July 23 LTC Collins became the first woman to command a Space Shuttle mission. Eileen Collins is also a wife and mother, but on top of all these titles and distinctions, she is an inspiration for many women throughout the world.

I also want to take a moment to recognize CAPT Wendy B. Lawrence who served as a mission specialist on the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. CAPT Lawrence is a native of Jacksonville and has flown on four missions to space. Lawrence graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981 with a degree in Ocean Engineering. She went on to earn a master of science degree in Ocean Engineering from M.I.T. in 1988. Her mission aboard *Discovery* was to transfer payloads back and forth from the International Space Station using the robotic arm. She's made history, too. She was one of the first two female helicopter pilots to make a long deployment to the Indian Ocean as part of a carrier battle group while stationed at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Six. Clearly, she made history again when the Shuttle *Discovery* returned NASA to flight.

Both these women deserve great recognition for their work aboard the Shuttle *Discovery* and their lifetime of service to our Nation. Truly, many women from Sally Ride to Mae Jemison have made great strides to get to this day when a woman can command a space shuttle. To paraphrase a historic statement once made from the moon: 'This is one small step for women and one giant leap for womenkind.'

HONORING WILLIAM F.
RICHARDSON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William F. Richardson on the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as the Executive Director of the Berks County Action Program in Pennsylvania.

As Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Council and the Berks County Action Program (BCAP), Mr. Richardson has actively fought to mobilize the human and financial resources to combat poverty in the City of Reading and the County of Berks. Under Mr. Richardson's leadership, BCAP has initiated, coordinated, and implemented numerous social programs to fight against poverty. This organization is well known for its ability to stimulate activities within their local communities and for the services it continually provides for the low-income, financially distressed, and disadvan-

tagged citizens in the area. These invaluable services include job training, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, housing, parenting classes, home management, child care classes, and substance abuse prevention.

In attempt to make a difference in the lives of the poor in his community, Mr. Richardson entered into community service as the assistant to former Mayor Victor Yarnell from 1968 to 1969. He then made the decision to leave City Hall and take a position as the assistant director for community liaison for the Reading Redevelopment Authority in 1969. In 1979, Mr. Richardson resigned from the Authority and came to his current position as the Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Council.

Throughout the past 35 years, Mr. Richardson further proved his commitment to helping the less fortunate by participating as an active member of his community, serving on numerous boards, including those of the Reading Parking Authority and the Reading-Berks Human Relations Council. Mr. Richardson is also the president of the Greater Berks Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this extraordinary gentleman and his selfless mission to help those in need and for the invaluable service he has so diligently provided. I wish him the very best of luck in his retirement.

HONORING BARBARA JEAN BROWN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to the service of San Francisco's most needy individuals. Barbara Jean Brown, known to those who loved her as "Mother Brown," passed away on August 9 after a year-long struggle with leukemia.

Mother Brown distinguished herself through her generous and untiring efforts feeding the poor and homeless of our city through Mother Brown's Dining Room. By offering a haven to countless individuals for more than 20 years, her spirit and kindness touched all those to whom she tended. I offer my deepest sympathy to her sons, Frederick and Jaamel; her brother, Arthur; and her sisters, Alice, Fanny, and Dennie Marie.

Mother Brown served San Francisco with dignity and love. The beginning of her public ministry consisted of parking an old, oversized Cadillac and serving hot meals out of her trunk that she had cooked in her own kitchen. Sharon Williams, the operations manager of Mother Brown's Dining Hall, said of her colleague, "She knew there was a need. She believed no one should ever go to bed hungry." Mother Brown never turned anyone away.

Her work did not go unnoticed. Government agencies, community organizations, and private corporations donated funds to allow Mother Brown to set up the Bayview Hope Homeless Resource Center and Mother Brown's Dining Room in a converted warehouse. With this new facility, Mother Brown was able to serve more people with additional resources and services. Beyond her work with the Center and Dining Room, she threw an annual Christmas party at the Bayview Opera